The Website Committee provides this report to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen to document progress made since forming and holding our inaugural meeting on March 15th, outline objectives for the next phase which will cover the next 3 months, June – August, and document current issues, concerns and possible future implementations and uses of the Town's Website, www.uxbridge-ma.gov.

We have secured the domain www.uxbridge-ma.gov which had been registered previously by the sitting Technology Advisory Committee. The domain is registered with GSA Federal Technology Service, 10304 Eaton Place, FTS/TOI (.gov Domain Registration), Fairfax, VA, 22030 (877-734-4688) through 9/30/2005. The annual registration fee is $125. This domain was chosen because it had been previously established, it had the official ".gov" suffix, and good "Uxbridge.com" domains were not available.

We have secured access to the current Internet Service Provider (ISP) host for the domain, FatCow, 2400 Louisiana Blvd NE, Building 3 Second Floor, Albuquerque, NM, 87110 (888-278-9780). Site hosting fees are paid through 6/13/2005. An email invoice was received and forwarded to the Town Manager on 5/23/2005 for payment to ensure continuity of service, but has been paid by a member of the Website Committee and will be submitted for reimbursement. The annual hosting fee is $99.

The domain uxbridge-ma.gov has quickly become recognized. In May the site averaged 447 hits/day. In June we are averaging 434. Visitors are seeking content with over 150 hits in June on the June STM Warrant page, and over100 hits on the Bylaws and Regulations and Town Report pages. The site has been referred by Google 168 times so far this month (216 times last month), and hit directly 2,251 times (statistics for last month are skewed by developer testing but over 8,000).

Consideration has been given to changing the ISP. FatCow host servers are Apache web servers operating under Linux. As such, Windows Active Server Pages (ASP) is not supported. ASP is a solution being considered for providing content management capability to Town Hall staff. While ISP's offering Windows servers comparably priced to FatCow's Linux servers can be found, the Website Committee does not feel it can identify an ISP who can meet other expectations and requirements Town Hall staff have with regard to support availability for non-website specific, but domain hosting related issues such as email. Because of this, the Website Committee will use an alternate method to provide content management capability on the present Linux/Apache platform, and defer ISP-related recommendations to Town Hall staff.

Along this line, we recommend the Town hire a qualified Information Technology professional to provide infrastructure support for the Town's current investment in technology and to advance the use of technology throughout the town government and related departments, boards and committees. This position will help ensure the future usability and usefulness of the Town's Website and should result in more and better quality content for the site.

Phase II Objectives:

- Support lower display resolutions.
- Content management capability for Town Hall staff.
- Pay bills (real estate tax, excise tax, water and sewer bills, parking fines) online.
- Assessor's Map.
- Street Listing.

Current Issues and Concerns:

The website is best viewed at 1024x768 resolution. Page formatting is not acceptable at 800x600 resolution. We will work to resolve this during the next 3 months.

All pages are HTML and JavaScript and content updates, therefore, requires some skill in these technologies. We will build content management capability for Town Hall staff to add, change and delete meeting notices, agendas, minutes, department, board and committee staff and membership, contact information, and other information on the site.

The site still lacks meeting schedules, agendas and minutes for "high profile" boards, committees and, where relevant, departments. We do not have consistent input from the School Committee, the Finance Committee, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Future Implementations and Uses:

Periodic surveys to help determine Uxbridge residents' opinions and interests for Town government and services.

The web site is a true benefit to the community and has been an excellent example of inter-departmental cooperation. The committee would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the town manager for his support and all town personnel for their cooperation and enthusiasm concerning this project.